

Forncett Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Forncett Village Hall on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance: Cllr B Frith (Chairman) Cllr B Humphreys, Cllr A Coleman, Cllr G Barnes, Cllr D Welsby, Cllr S Allen, Cllr S Jackson

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Barry Duffin
8 members of the public

- 1. To consider apologies for absence** – None to report.
- 2. To receive any declarations of interest** – Councillor Coleman declared an interest on item 11 on the agenda.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting (19 December 2019)** – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.
- 4. To consider matters arising from the minutes (for information only)** – The Chairman reminded interested parties that the Conservation Area meeting is on Friday 24 January, meeting at the village hall at 10.30am.
Julia Fromings-Hill gave an update on the FENS progress. There will be a drop in event on Saturday 22 February at the Jolly Farmers pub between 11am and 1pm. Representatives of various groups from the village, including history, art, singing, bowls and the coffee morning group as well as staff from the Early Help Hub from South Norfolk Council. The aim is to share information and ensure the people who need help know how to access it. Refreshments will be available and there will be a free prize draw to win £100 of Co-op vouchers. Everyone is welcome.
- 5. Open forum, to hear from members of the public, including reports from District and County Councillors** – District Councillor Barry Duffin reported that South Norfolk Council are trying to take a slightly different approach with regard to the GNLP, not simply relying on places like Wymondham and Hethersett to take the bulk of new housing but rather spread the housing throughout the District. One of the issues for consideration is whether or not the schools in each location have any capacity. So the district council is at the early stages of re-visiting the criteria.
- 6. To consider planning applications:**
 - a) 2019 / 2550 - The Granary, Northfield Rd – Erection of new stable building on paddock and creation of new access** – This application was discussed at some length. Councillors raised some concerns regarding the proposed new access and the applicant was present at the meeting to give some of the background and reasoning behind the application. Councillors agreed that they did not object to the plans for the stables but remained concerned about the proposed access, due to visibility. The need for the new access was not entirely clear. The parish council also agreed that the standard clause would be required to ensure that the new buildings remained tied to the existing property and would not be sold as a separate dwelling in the future.

b) 2019 / 2551 – The Granary, Northfied Rd – Erection of new hayloft – Again, this application was thoroughly discussed. The parish council object to the height and scale of the proposed new building and feel the size is disproportionate to the remaining land. In the event that the District Council award permission, the parish council would ask that the same clause be added to ensure that the new building remains as part of the existing property.

c) 2019 / 2203 – Rookery Farm, Wacton Rd – Amended application – two storey extension, detached garage building and detached storage building – Councillors agreed that there were no objections to this application, subject to the satisfaction of the listed buildings officer.

7. To report planning comments agreed via e-mail in between meetings – None

8. To report planning decisions:

a) 2019 / 1725 – Station Bungalow, Station Rd – Change of use of land to residential curtilage & single storey side extension etc – Approved

b) 2019 / 2307 – Steam Museum, Low Rd – Erection of toilet facilities – Approved

c) 2019 / 2337 – Blacksmith Cottage, Low Rd – Demolition of lean to & garage, erection of two storey extension & link building – Approved

9. To review the following policies: Sickness absence policy, Financial risk management policy, General risk management policy – All three policies were reviewed and it was agreed that no alterations were needed at this time.

10. To hear information about ‘what 3 words’ – The clerk explained that the use of this app is becoming more widespread, with the police often making reference to it in their bulletins and using links to it to show meeting locations. Every 3m square in the world has been allocated a three word address, which will remain constant. It is becoming widely used by the emergency services but may prove helpful to people in other situations. A link to the website is here: <https://what3words.com> or it can be downloaded in the form of an app, to smartphones.

11. To consider a grant request towards maintenance of Methodist Church burial ground – A request for a grant of £250 has been received and Councillors confirmed they were happy to support this.

12. To receive the RFO report and consider the approval of the following payments:

Ch. No.	Amount	Payee	Notes
100221	£335.12	A Rayner	December salary
100222	£ 81.00	Westcotec Ltd	Battery charger
100223	£250.00	Forncett Methodist Church	Grant

A small amount of interest has been received on the savings account. It was agreed to transfer £4938.92 from the main current account to the savings account, making the balance a round £20,000. **Action BF & AR.**

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13. To consider correspondence – No actual correspondence to report but it was noted that there had been some unfortunate incidents recently of petty crime in the village. Residents are asked to remain vigilant and report any crimes to the police. It was also noted that the second '100 trees' meeting is taking place at St Mary's Church on 25 January 2020.

14. Update on ongoing matters and outstanding issues

a) Village Hall – The New Year's Day walk was very successful with over 70 people taking part. Donations made on the day allowed for a payment of £240 to be made to St Martin's Housing Trust. Thanks go to Peter, Sarah and Pam, at the village hall on the day, and also to Su & Pete for providing refreshments.

b) Highways and Public Rights of Way – The recent report to Highways regarding the broken road sign at Northfield Rd / Valley Farm Rd elicited a response which did not seem to relate to the problem raised, however, it has been confirmed that the road sign will be replaced but it is not a high priority task. A meeting to plan for the continued maintenance of the footpaths in the village will take place on 19th February at St Edmunds church. The parish council confirmed it is happy to meet the £20 hire charge for the venue. A 'Parish Paths' seminar is taking place at Thompson Community Centre on 28th February and it is hoped that two representatives from Forncett will attend.

Whilst discussing Highways, a member of the public reported a flood problem near to the triangle of grass at the Spring Lane / Low Rd junction. Councillor Humphreys reported problems with the river / ford at Wash Lane, which appears to be as a result of the river becoming silted up. The clerk will report both issues. **Action AR.**

c) SAM2 report – Phil Whiscombe reported that the SAM2 may be set to stealth mode for a short period. The SAM2 team recently received positive feedback from a resident and Councillors agreed that the machine does have a positive impact on speeding which, if it is only short term, is still welcome.

15. Open forum, to hear from members of the public – A problem regarding regular littering was reported. The clerk will ask South Norfolk Council for advice.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 20 February 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.